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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

2 A method of fast fingerprint search space partitioning and prescreening is disclosed. The  
3 method comprises the steps of: inputting the contents of a fingerprint repository comprising file  
4 fingerprints for index creation; creating an index based on each minutia and selected neighbors  
5 of each minutia in each file fingerprint in the repository; searching the index to identify all  
6 minutiae which correspond to the minutiae in a search fingerprint; and analyzing results of this  
7 search to determine which file fingerprints contributed the most minutiae with the best  
8 correspondence to the minutiae in the search fingerprint.

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